

is always under improvement. By 1975 the club had expanded to 6 aircraft and today they have over 140 members.

The Williamson Flying Club, Inc. has a storied history ranging over five decades. As stated in their corporation certificate: "The purpose for which the corporation is to be formed are to promote and encourage interest in aviation and all allied sciences . . . to teach the members of the corporation to fly and improve their ability . . . to purchase . . . airplanes . . . airports, hangars . . . but not for profit." Out of a deep love and respect for aviation, the group carries an altruistic spirit to share and spread the wonders that flying can bring not only to individuals but also to the surrounding community.

I congratulate the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. on a successful history and wish them the best of luck for the many more years of flying they have ahead.

HONORING FAUSTO MIRANDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House in honor of Fausto Miranda, a legendary sports reporter and one of the most outstanding members of our Cuban-American community. Last week, Fausto Miranda passed away in his Miami home at the age of 91.

Miami and the Cuban people grieve in the face of this loss. Fausto Miranda was born on July 4, 1914, not knowing that history would turn this date into two reasons for him to celebrate. In 1960, Fausto Miranda came to the U.S. where, like so many other Cubans fleeing the newly installed Castro regime, he found a safe haven and the opportunity to continue his extraordinary journalistic career. The fourth of July from now on provided him with two reasons to celebrate—the day he was born and the day America became independent and turned into a home for the oppressed and persecuted.

Born and raised in the town of Puerto Padre in eastern Cuba, Fausto Miranda dreamt of becoming a lawyer; instead his poor background forced him to work in the sugar industry for a mere 30 pesos a month. Young Fausto was very shrewd when it came to making a living—he took on such diverse jobs as street vendor, prison guard, trumpeter, orchestra manager, doorman, cleaning person, music critic, social annalist, and political reporter.

At the age of 20, fate showed him where his real talent lay buried. Working as a stadium announcer, he one day passed his notes on to a journalist of *Diario de Cuba*, one of the count's major newspapers. The next day, the article on the baseball game that appeared in the *Diario* was signed by 'Fausto Miranda, Special Correspondent'. Years later, Fausto Miranda recalled: "The night the newspaper came out and I saw the article with my name, I did not sleep."

His career began to take off when he moved to Cuba's capital city of Havana in 1933. He started writing a column called "Stardust" which soon brought him further writing assignments for the newspapers *El Crisol*, *Información*, *Diario de la Marina* and

Alerta as well as a job as sports commentator for radio COCO. Fausto Miranda rose to become "an all-time pillar of Cuban sports journalism with an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball", according to Felo Ramirez, a veteran sports commentator and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Coopers-town.

During Fausto's time in Havana, the Cuban people were fortunate to have the best sports journalists in the hemisphere, including great personalities like Eladio Secades, Jessie Losada, and Pedro Galiana. When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, Miranda was president of the Sports Writer Association. Like so many other branches of the vibrant Cuban civil society, the Association was closed down by the dictator and Fausto Miranda was forced to flee the tyrant's grasp.

He arrived in New York City, the haven to so many freedom-seeking immigrants, where he once again started off by taking on a simple job as doorman before entering the American sports journalism. While his little brother Willy Miranda was out on the field playing for the New York Yankees, Fausto was reporting from the American sports world for a wide variety of national and international media. He wrote for the newspaper *La Prensa*, the *Gesto* magazine as well as the French news agency AFP, and broadcast for the radio stations Canal 47, Radio X and WQBA-La Cubanísima.

In 1975, Fausto moved to Miami where he founded the sports section of *El Miami Herald*, predecessor of *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language version of the *Miami Herald*. In his famed weekly column "Los viejos", Fausto Miranda revived the Cuban-American's community memories of their tropical homeland. The popularity he gained was so great that even after his retirement in 1995, Fausto continued to publish the popular weekly column.

The Cuban-American community mourns an outstanding man, whose love of sports would always drive him forward. Calling himself a "very bad athlete . . . very bad in everything", his passion for the athletic world paved his way from a stadium announcer to one of the Western Hemisphere's most high-profile sports journalists. Not even the murderous dictator Fidel Castro could stop him—from stardom in Havana, Fausto went to stardom in Miami.

Fausto Miranda was not only an annalist of the times when legends like the boxers Kid Chocolate and Joe Louis were attracting huge crowds, and baseball legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig were filling the stadiums, but through his writing he also helped the Cuban American community to keep our memories of our native Cuba alive, "the most beautiful land human eyes ever beheld," as he once said. We will greatly miss him.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congress-

sional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the deficits proposed by this budget. We are at war. This should be a time of sacrifice for all Americans; it is not the time for gutting programs that help working families to pay for tax cuts to the wealthy among us. Sacrifice should be shared, not dumped on some of us.

Everywhere I go these days, people ask me when Congress will do something about the budget deficit—which will mean profound taxes on their children down the road . . . Republicans, Democrats, business people, laborers—everybody.

I keep telling them each budget we pass is worse and worse, growing the deficit at an incredible level. People used to say Congress was taxing and spending. These days Congress is borrowing and spending . . . worse, we're borrowing from our children. This budget grows both the deficit and the national debt. The deficits in this budget would, according to the report accompanying the resolution, lead to another debt limit increase of \$653 billion—on top of the \$3 trillion in debt ceiling increases already approved since President Bush took office.

And still . . . this resolution makes deep and harmful cuts to critical services for working families—including border security, education, and veterans' services. Democrats offer a budget today, that this House will certainly reject, that does not include the harmful cuts to domestic priorities while still reaching balance in 2012. It has smaller deficits than the Republican budget, accumulates less debt, and returns us back to paying for what we pass.

If we pass this budget resolution today—and I will vote no—this House is following the bad ideas in President Bush's budget, which continues the policies of the past 5 years that deeply cut into the spending for our homeland security, simply to pay for tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans.

The budget makes long-term damage in our real security . . . at a time the President and many in this Congress are saying the needs on the border are so severe that we must send the National Guard to protect the border. First, let me say how much I oppose deploying the Guard to the border . . . but let's talk about how we got to crisis on the border: it is entirely about calculated disregard to the security forces on the border.

The House budget shortchanges homeland security programs—cutting them by up to \$488 million this year and up to \$6.1 billion over 5 years from the amount needed to keep up with inflation. In December, when the 9/11 Commission issued its final report card, it gave the Bush Administration and this Congress a series of C's, D's, and F's on many areas in homeland security—including border security.

The only thing we have given border security is promises, but no money. We know generally how much it would cost for the recommendations the 9-11 Commission said was the very least we must do to make a dent in illegal immigration:

\$375 million for the detention beds the 9/11 Commission determined we need,

\$340 million for the Border Patrol agents the 9/11 Commission determined we need.

Even with the VA treating more than 144,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan,